



Shanghai Consulate News for Americans

Issue 45

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American Citizen Services (ACS) Contact Information

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Monday to Friday *Closed
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and holidays.

After Hours Emergencies:

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New Voter Registration and Ballot Request Now Available *Updated State Requirements Also Available*

October 20, 2011 — Arlington, Va. — The online electronic version of the revised Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) is available now at [FVAP.gov](http://fvap.gov). The FPCA registers and requests ballots for voters simultaneously. Voters can visit [FVAP.gov](http://fvap.gov) to use the online wizard or access the PDF fillable forms. The FPCA is a standard form accepted by all 55 States and Territories for uniformed and civilian overseas voters to apply for an absentee ballot. The length of time the FPCA is valid and its completion requirements vary by State so be sure to refer to the [FVAP.gov](http://fvap.gov) web portal or the *2012-2013 Voting Assistance Guide*: <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/guide.html>.

The revised FPCA is wholly compliant with provisions of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, as amended by the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act in 2009, containing space for the required information but structured in a more logical and usable format.

Previous versions of the form can be used by voters; however, be sure to use the current state information from [FVAP.gov](http://fvap.gov) to ensure your local election official receives all the information required to register you and send your ballot to you. Voting Assistance Officers should send voters to [FVAP.gov](http://fvap.gov) whenever possible and go through <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/order.html> to obtain hardcopy forms. Overseas citizens groups should encourage their members to use the online wizards to simplify the process, but can contact FVAP directly to acquire hardcopy forms if necessary: <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/ocit-order.html>.

Voters should apply for absentee ballots in Janu-

ary of each year or at least 90 days before the specific election in which they want to vote. If your mailing address changes, especially between the Primary and General Elections, you will need to send in an updated FPCA.

A complete 2012 election calendar is available here: <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/calendar.html>

All States and territories are required to send ballots at least 45 days before an election. If you have not received your ballot 30 days before the election, go to the [FVAP.gov](http://fvap.gov) web portal to see if your State has an online ballot delivery system. If not, you can use the back-up write-in ballot wizard also on the [FVAP.gov](http://fvap.gov) web portal.

Additionally, the 2012-2013 Voting Assistance Guide is now available at [FVAP.gov](http://fvap.gov). This compilation of absentee voting regulations, laws, deadlines, and procedures reflects the States' changes and deadlines for the upcoming elections. An addendum to the guide providing Voting Assistance Officers with steps to offering voting assistance required by Wounded Warriors and other voters with disabilities will be available at [FVAP.gov](http://fvap.gov) next month.

If you'd like more information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program or need help with the absentee voting process please go to www.fvap.gov or contact the FVAP at 703-588-1584 (toll free 1-800-438-VOTE) or email the program at VOTE@FVAP.GOV. And don't forget to "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP and follow [@FVAP](https://twitter.com/FVAP) on Twitter to receive timely election information.

Upcoming Holidays And Other Closures

A full list of all of our holiday closings is online at <http://shanghai.usembassy-china.org.cn/holidays.html>. The Consulate will be **CLOSED** on the following days:

November 11, Friday:	Veteran's Day	(退伍军人节 Tuìwǔ Jūnrén Jié)
November 24, Thursday:	Thanksgiving Day	(感恩节 Gǎn'ēn Jié)

National Security Language Initiative For Youth (NSLI-Y)

The State Department's National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) provides merit-based scholarships to U.S. high school students and recent graduates interested in learning less commonly studied foreign languages.

Eligibility Requirements

All applicants must be:

- A U.S. citizen who is currently enrolled in or just graduated from high school;
- 15-to-18.5 years old at the start of the program;
- have a minimum GPA of 2.5.

Languages Offered

There are seven languages: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Korean, Persian, Russian, and Turkish. Read more detailed information about the individual language programs at <http://exchanges.state.gov/youth/programs/nsli/progdetails.html>.

Application Deadline

Applications for 2011/2012 programs (for programs in summer 2011 and continuing through academic year 2011/2012, fall 2011 and spring 2012) closed in November 2010. Applications for 2012/2013 programs (for programs in summer 2012 and continuing through academic year 2012/2013, fall 2012 and spring

2013) will be available in fall 2011.

For more information, please contact American Councils, the current Department of State award recipient, at 1.866.790.2086, by email: nsliy@americancouncils.org, or visit the American Councils' NSLI-Y website at www.nsliforyouth.org/nslicms-1.1/.

NSLI -Y Alumni

Shared stories of experiences before, during and after exchange: <http://exchanges.state.gov/youth/programs/nsli/nsliy-audio.html>.

Still Have Questions?

Visit <http://exchanges.state.gov/youth/programs/nsli/faqs.html>.

Travel Warnings And Alerts

Security reminder: It is advisable that you and your family review your personal security profile and be aware of your surroundings at all times.

Since our previous Newsletter, the U.S. Department of State has issued new Travel Warnings for the following countries:

<u>Iran</u>	10/21/2011
<u>Nigeria</u>	10/13/2011
<u>Lebanon</u>	10/12/2011
<u>Mauritania</u>	10/12/2011
<u>Mali</u>	10/04/2011
<u>Syria</u>	09/30/2011

Travel Warnings are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff. This information is available at

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html.

The U.S. Department of State also has issued new Travel Alerts:

<u>Thailand</u>	10/27/2011
<u>Mexico - Hurricane Rina</u>	10/25/2011
<u>India - Potential Terrorism</u>	10/18/2011
<u>Congo, Democratic Republic of the</u>	10/13/2011
<u>Worldwide</u>	10/11/2011
<u>Japan</u>	10/07/2011
<u>Tunisia</u>	10/05/2011
<u>Worldwide</u>	10/01/2011

Travel Alerts are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions generally within a particular country or region that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Natural disasters, terrorist attacks, coups, anniversaries of terrorist events, election-related demonstrations or violence, and high-profile events such as international conferences or regional sports events are examples of conditions that might

generate a Travel Alert. This information is available at : http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html.

A Travel Alert has been issued to alert U.S. citizens to difficulties related to travel in the flood-affected areas of the central and lower parts of northern Thailand, including Bangkok. Severe flooding has hampered transportation and limited access to some essential services in the affected regions. The U.S. Department of State recommends against all but essential travel to the affected areas. This Travel Alert extends only to the areas of Thailand listed in the following paragraph. Most tourist destinations, such as Phuket and Chiang Mai, are unaffected by the current flooding. Bangkok's main international airport, Suvarnabhumi, is operating normally.

Further details can be found at : http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_thailand.html.

New USCIS Procedures for Filing I-130 Petitions for Alien Relatives

Effective Aug. 15, 2011, Petitioners residing in a country with a United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) office have the option of sending their Petition for an Alien Relative (Form I-130) to the Chicago Lockbox, or they may file it at the international USCIS office having jurisdiction over the area where they live. China has an USCIS office in Beijing, which accepts petitions filed in China. Please see their contact information below.

DHS/USCIS, Beijing (for petitions filed in China)

Address (Mailing Address within

China and Express Mail):

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

c/o US Embassy Beijing

55 An Jia Lou Road, ChaoYang District, Beijing, 100600

Mailing Address From the U.S.:

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

c/o American Embassy Beijing

PSC 461 Box 50, FPO AP 96521-0002

Phone:

(010) 8531-3111 (from within China) or

011 (8610) 8531-3111 (from the United States)

Fax:

(010) 8531-3100 (from within China) or 011 (8610) 8531-3100 (from the United States)

Email: dhsbeijing-cis@dhs.gov

Petitioners residing in countries without USCIS offices must file the Petition for an Alien Relative (Form I-130), with the USCIS Chicago Lockbox facility. For specific instructions please see: <http://www.uscis.gov/i-130>.

Florida, New Hampshire, South Carolina Voting Information

FLORIDA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, SOUTH CAROLINA VOTERS, SUBMIT YOUR REGISTRATION AND BALLOT REQUEST FORM FOR UPCOMING EARLY PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

Military and overseas voters should submit a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) NOW to ensure they have the opportunity to vote in the upcoming early Presidential Primary Elections:

New Hampshire: TBD*

South Carolina: January 21, 2012

Florida: January 31, 2012

Voting Assistance Officers should contact voters who claim residency in these States and inform them of these upcoming primaries, this news release, refer them to FVAP.gov and assist them in requesting and returning their absentee ballot.

Go to FVAP.gov and get started! It only takes a few minutes!

Register to Vote and Request Your Ballot Now!

Many States allow you to vote only in the year your ballot request (FPCA) is received, but due to the early primary dates, these States have made an exception. These States allow you to submit your FPCA now in 2011 so that you receive your State ballot and return it in time to be counted for these primaries. *At this time, New Hampshire has not determined its Presidential Primary date. An FPCA received by New Hampshire Town or City Clerks on or after January of 2011 is valid through the 2012 Presidential Primary.

HOWEVER! To ensure you are eligible to vote in other 2012 elections, including the General Presidential election, you must submit an FPCA AGAIN in January of 2012!

All members of the U.S. Uniformed Services, their family members and citizens residing outside the U.S. who are residents from these States should submit an FPCA for these elections by going to FVAP.gov or by following the instructions in the Voting Assistance Guide, also available at FVAP.gov.

Be sure you include a phone and/or fax number and an email address on your absentee ballot application in case your local election official needs to contact you. And, remember, many States allow you to submit your form electronically, and deliver your ballot electronically or provide online ballot access. Go to FVAP.gov or your State's election website to see how you can return your form. You can find your State's website at FVAP's web portal: <http://www.fvap.gov/reference/links.html>.

To find out the status of your registration/absentee ballot request, contact your local election office at <http://www.fvap.gov/shortcuts/wheresendfpc.html>, or visit your State website.

The Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB)

The FWAB is a backup ballot. If 30 days before the election you think you will not receive your State ballot in

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Forewarned Is Forearmed – SCAMS Endemic To Shanghai

The American Citizen Services (ACS) unit is regularly contacted by Americans victimized by scams that take advantage of their generosity or ignorance of local norms and culture. While petty theft remains the most prevalent type of crime Westerners encounter in China, the diversity and sophistication of scams is increasing. While the following list is not meant to be all-encompassing it does forewarn and forearm you against the most common scams encountered by Americans in the Shanghai area:

“Art Show / Art Student” scam – “Hi, I’m an art major at a Chinese university (usually Xi’an). We are showing our work nearby and would love for you to have a look. Don’t worry, entrance is free and there’s no need to buy anything.” If you follow this “art student” you will be pressured to purchase expensive, low-grade art prints.

“Tea Ceremony / English student” scam – “Hi, we are English students at a local university. Would you mind helping us practice our English? In exchange, we will treat you to a traditional Chinese tea ceremony.” After ordering tea and snacks they will excuse themselves. Moments later the bill will arrive and very large men will force you to pay an exorbitant amount of money before allowing you to leave. Real English students will not mind going to a place of your choosing for a chance to practice their English for an hour.

“Bar tabs” - Better to pay as you go. Starting a tab makes it possible for a bartender to hand you a bar bill of \$500. If you decline to pay you could be threatened with physical violence until you pay (usually by credit card), before being escorted out.

“Injured Relative / Arrested Relative” scam – “Hi, I’m a friend of your grandchild here in China and she was just seriously injured (usually in a traffic accident) and/or arrested. In order for her to receive medical care in China you must pay all fees upfront. The American Consulate won’t help. Please wire \$2000 to my account so I can ensure your granddaughter receives the necessary medical treatment.” Always best to try and contact your relative directly, or call ACS to help you find out the facts, if someone tells you that they are in trouble and need you to wire them money ASAP. In China medical facilities will usually contact the U.S. Consulate if an American citizen is admitted without anyone to assist. We will never refuse to assist American citizens in need.

“Please Hold the Line for the Police” – You receive a phone call from someone claiming to be from your bank or the police station and you are told that someone assumed your identity and used your credit card to commit credit card fraud, which is now under investigation by the Public

Security Bureau (PSB). You are informed that the PSB requires your bank account information to complete their investigation. After providing your personally identifiable information over the phone that included your savings account information, your account is liquidated. You later find out that the person who called you was not from your bank or the police station. If you receive a call from the police asking for personal information you should ask them to wait, and contact your nearest police station to inquire into the situation in person.

“Business Deal” – You have been doing business with a Chinese company for some time and receive an email asking you to send the next wire transfer to a new account number. After wiring the money you are asked to resend the payment because it never arrived. After rewiring the payment you are again notified that the payment did not arrive and that you should try sending it to another account number. At which time you become extremely suspicious and discover the email address is slightly different from the company’s real email address and/or the person who has been contacting you left the company a month before.

“IRS scam” – You received an email from the IRS claiming they cannot process your recent tax return

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Florida, New Hampshire, South Carolina Voting Information

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time to vote and return it, vote the FWAB! Go to [FVAP.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) and get started! You may also submit the FWAB any time after submitting an FPCA.

Additional information:

Check your State's election website for specific information on candidates, elections, contact information and links to

your local election offices. Find your State's website at FVAP's web portal: <http://www.fvap.gov/reference/links.html>.

FVAP can be contacted at 1-800-438-8683. Citizens may reach FVAP toll-free from 67 countries by using the toll-free numbers listed on the FVAP web portal, <http://www.fvap.gov/contact/index.html>. Questions re-

garding the above may also be referred to the Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program, Department of Defense, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC, 20301-1155, vote@fvap.gov, and at [FVAP.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). And don't forget to “like” us Facebook at www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP and follow [@FVAP](https://twitter.com/FVAP) on Twitter.

News: 3 Foreigners Charged

(from Shanghai Daily, Oct. 20, 2011, by Zhao Wen)

A FOREIGN driver involved in an accident in which a pedestrian was struck was one of three expats yesterday charged with drunk driving by city prosecutors.

A German, the sales director of a transport company, had been driving along Qilianshan Road in Baoshan District on the night of August 7.

His car was in a collision with a pedestrian. A blood test recorded 3.13 milligrams of alcohol per millimeter, while the limit is 0.8mg/ml.

A Greek, manager of a local plastic company, was found drunk driving without a driving license on Yan'an Road early on July 27. His blood alcohol content was above the limit.

And a South Korean, a company representative in Suzhou, was stopped on May 21 on Yan'an Road. His blood alcohol content was 0.96mg/ml.

Under an amendment to China's Criminal Law effective on May 1, drivers with alcohol levels at or above the legal limit are considered guilty of dangerous driving.

Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease

Hand, foot, and mouth disease ("HFMD") is a common, generally mild illness caused by viruses, which usually affects infants and children younger than five years old. Although in China, HFMD is more common in the spring, reports from around the country, especially the south, suggest that there is some HFMD circulating now. Symptoms of hand, foot, and mouth disease include fever, blister-like sores in the mouth and a skin rash.

In the United States, Coxsackievirus A16 is the most common cause of hand, foot, and mouth disease. Enterovirus 71 ("EV71") is another virus that can cause hand, foot, and mouth disease, and it is this agent that has been associated with severe cases in Asia, including a significant number of deaths in China in 2008.

Hand, foot, and mouth disease is often confused with foot-and-mouth disease (also called hoof-and-mouth disease), a disease of cattle, sheep, and swine. However, the two diseases are caused by different viruses and are not related. Humans do not get the animal disease, and animals do not get the human disease.

There is no vaccine or specific therapy to treat the disease. Improved hygiene, with more frequent hand-washing and disinfecting areas, are the most effective forms of prevention.

Should I keep my child home from school if it is reported in the school? There is always a risk of common childhood illness when in daycare centers or kindergartens because small children share close contact, but we have no specific indication that children should be kept home.

What about my Aiyi? As always, encourage good hygiene:

wash hands before holding children or handling food and after changing diapers. Obviously, if your Aiyi has symptoms of illness – fever or respiratory illness – encourage her to stay home until she is well.

What about public play areas? If there is a lot of respiratory disease around, these may be places where such diseases are transmitted, as they can be crowded, and may not be frequently disinfected. Playing outdoors or having play groups in family homes may be a better environment.

Are swimming pools safe? Properly treated swimming pools are safe. Chlorine kills the virus.

What are the specific symptoms to look for? The illness usually starts with a mild fever, poor appetite, general malaise (feeling sick), and frequently a sore throat. One or 2 days after the fever begins, painful sores develop in the mouth. They begin as small red spots that blister and then often become ulcers. They are usually located on the tongue, gums, and inside of the cheeks. The rash develops over 1 - 2 days with flat or raised red spots, some with blisters. The rash does not usually itch and it is usually located on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet. It may also appear on the buttocks. A person with HFMD may have only the rash or the mouth ulcers.

What do I do if I suspect my child has the illness? Contact your medical unit.

Where can I get more info.? See the CDC website: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/revb/enterovirus/hfhf.htm>.

Forewarned Is Forearmed – SCAMS Endemic To Shanghai

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because you did not include a photocopy of your state or federal ID. The IRS does NOT generally initiate fax or emails to taxpayers, nor does the IRS discuss tax account matters with taxpayers via email or fax. Moreover, the IRS never requests security-related personal information, such as your SSN or PIN numbers.

“Diversity Visa” – You receive an email congratulating you because you’ve won a Diversity Visa and although the Diversity Visa participation was free, U.S. law and regulations require every diversity visa winner to pay a visa processing fee of \$819. The email goes on to state the fee must be paid using a Western Union money transfer and will be processed by the U.S. Embassy in the United Kingdom.” UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should money be sent to anyone to participate in the DV Lottery. The Department of State's Kentucky Consular Center (KCC) does not send email notifications to DV entrants informing them of their winning entries.

“Real Estate” scam – You sign a contract for an apartment you want to rent and hand over the deposit and first few months rent to who you believe is the landlord. Everything seems legitimate until you return home one night to discover the real landlord in the apartment demanding to know who you are and why you have moved into his apartment. You find that the person you signed the contract with has skipped town with your money and the real estate agent has no recollection of you.

“Black Taxi” – “Where do you want to go?” or “Taxi?” If you get in, make no mistake, you will be grossly over charged and potentially robbed in a secluded area by the driver’s friends. The same goes for motorcycle and

moped operators charging for transportation.

“Fake Police” – You are stopped on the road (usually near an area frequented by expats) and asked to show your passport to a person claiming to be a police officer. When you cannot produce your passport, you are asked to pay an on-the-spot fine of RMB500. First, if they are real police they will have no problem with showing you their I.D. when requested. Furthermore, real police officers will go with you to their police station where you will be issued a receipt for the fine.

“Pickpockets” – Typically, a single man or a pair of women with babies strapped to their chests approach you from behind during your walk near a popular tourist area (Nanjing Rd). Unbeknownst to you, they unzip your bag and quickly steal everything that looks expensive. Remember to keep your bags in front of you and do not place valuables in your back pocket.

“Child Beggars and Flower Sellers” – “Money, money, money!” or “Flowers, Flowers, Flowers!” Money dropped into their cup will be taken by their adult handler (perhaps even their kidnapper) who is exploiting the child and your humanitarian nature. If you want to help, consider offering food instead.

“Buy a Car” scam – A Chinese based website states you can pay 30% of the total cost of the car now through Western Union and the balance upon delivery. In the end you never receive your car or see your money again.

“Black Money” - “In order to prevent the theft of U.S. currency being shipped overseas, the U.S. government has a process to coat \$100 bills with a special ink (usually black). I have intercepted one shipment but need your help purchasing a special solvent to ‘clean’ the bills. I am happy to share the proceeds with you.” Of course, the

process is bogus, and you will lose whatever money you invest.

“Stolen Wallet” – “Hi, my wife and I (dressed nicely) are tourists and had our wallets stolen. Could you please loan us RMB100? When we return home we will send you the money back.” You will not receive any money back and have just been victimized by a con artist.

“Dropped Metro Card” scam – The taxi driver drops your transportation card as he attempts to hand it back to you in the backseat. The next time you go to use it you find the card has a zero balance. What happened to your money? The taxi driver saw that you had a lot of money on your card and dropped it by his feet to quickly switch it for an empty one. Circumvent this scam by placing a sticker or other clear identifying marker on your transportation card to confirm the card handed back to you is indeed your own.

General Safety Advice

- Shanghai is a big city with big city problems.
- It is not a good idea at home; it is probably not a good idea here.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Always be aware of your surroundings. Look at the people close to you and watch out for “accidental” nudging and touching.
- Think about leaving valuable and extra cash behind in a safe place when you go out.
- Don’t carry all your valuable, cash, credit cards, etc in one pocket or bag – distribute.
- Enter into your phone: 110 (police) and 962288 (bilingual assistance).

